

FRENCH INDQ-CHINA

the French neither the king nor his people care that he should suffer the burdens of power so long as he retains its semblance*

The kingdom is divided into seven categories: the royal family; monks, both Brahmans and bonzes; distant relatives of the royal family; mandarins; freemen; serfs; and slaves. In addition there are the four : the royal house; the house of the abdicated or second sovereign;

the houses of the first prince and princess of the blood. The numerous officials of each are picturesquely graded according to dignities:

the highest* for example, has 10,000 dignities, a village chieftain about

500. As in Anram, the growth of a potentially dangerous aristocracy, in view of the quantity of royal offspring, is curtailed by law. After

five generations descendants of royal blood lapse into a caste known

as Brah Van and Pro Vongsa, a tactful title of nobility which carries

with it no concrete privilege. Nor do the mandarins constitute a menace,

for they are named and revoked at the king's pleasure. The only

hereditary caste reminiscent of India which exists is made up of a few

hundred families oiled Baku, of Brahmanic origin. In addition to certain

picturesque duties, like wearing a special head-dress and guarding the

sacred sword, they have real privileges in tax and *corvee* exemptions.

They may be exiled for treason but cannot be executed.

The mandarins are a temporarily privileged group, about a thousand

strong, organization is analogous to the Malayan. They are

the eyes, ears, and arms of the king, and are designated by title,

not by name. The first group are the mandarins of the interior or of

the crown, who have charge of the palace and of the army. The provin-

cial, or of the exterior, were originally assigned

to the five
 provinces* but subsequent additions have expanded
 this group,
 The Ngear are another set of provincial
 mandarins who bought
 the group the privilege of judging certain
 lawsuits. The attrn-
 of group are variable. Since the Cambodian
 word for justice
 "to sell," erne judge that the position is
 remunerative.
 his the Khmer administrative
 division: 'Cam-
 dismembenneiits have modified the number,
 of these provinces beyond all semblance of equality.
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 province he governs: the
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